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STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS OF PROPAFENONE ANALOGUES ON *PSEUDOMONAS* *AERUGINOSA*: EXPERIMENTAL AND DOCKING STUDIES

M. Senčanski¹, B. Ivković², D. Božić³, S. Grubišić⁴,
M. Milenković³ and Z. Vujić²

¹Center for Multidisciplinary Research, Institute of Nuclear Sciences Vinca,
University of Belgrade, Mihaila Petrovica Alasa 14, Belgrade, Serbia

²Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry,

³Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Pharmacy,
University of Belgrade,

Vojvode Stepe 450, Belgrade-Serbia. (blucic@pharmacy.bg.ac.rs)

⁴Center for Chemistry, IHTM, University of Belgrade, Njegoševa 12,
Belgrade, Serbia

ABSTRACT

Series of six propafenone analogues has been evaluated for antimicrobial activities against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Antimicrobial activity were confirmed for all tested compounds. The Docking studies of propafenone analogues into a X-ray crystal structures of porin *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* suggest that propafenone analogues show an interactions which may affect the functionality of porin i.e. bacterial cell.

INTRODUCTION

Earlier pharmacological studies discovered that propafenone analogues impair proliferation of cancer as well as microbial cells. Previous SAR studies of propafenone derivatives have selected the ethers, carbonyl, benzyl and amino groups as determinants for pharmacological activity of the propafenone and its derivatives [1-2]. Six of the synthesized derivatives are distinguished by the substitution of the benzyl moiety -F, -Cl atoms or -CH₃, -CF₃ groups (Table 1). These new substituents cause significant changes of lipophilicity and stereoelectronic properties of the benzyl moiety. These structural modifications could result in formation of intermolecular bonds of the benzyl moiety of the propafenone derivatives with hydrophobic amino acid residues in the inner pore of the porin and enhanced antimicrobial activities.

EXPERIMENTAL

The X-ray crystal structures of porin *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* opdl PDB ID: 2Y0H [Crystal Structure of *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* Opdl, Touw, D.S., Vijayaraghavan, J., Vandenberg, B., To Be Published] was obtained from the Protein Data Bank (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb>). Compounds 1-7, Table 1, were constructed in Accelrys Draw 4.2 [3], protonated at pH 7.4 and geometrically optimized at MM level of theory using MMFF94 force field. Obtained structures were, along with protein structure, prepared for docking in Autodock Tools 1.5. Docking was carried in Autodock Vina 1.1.2. [4]. All calculations were carried on PARADOX computer cluster (Scientific Computing Laboratory of the Institute of Physics, Belgrade, Serbia).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The binding site in porin, from docking results, consists of pocket between three inner loops, including following aminoacids: Val 123, Arg 124, Asp 121, Met 167, Leu 288, Thr 293, Thr 295 and Arg 296 (Fig. 1).

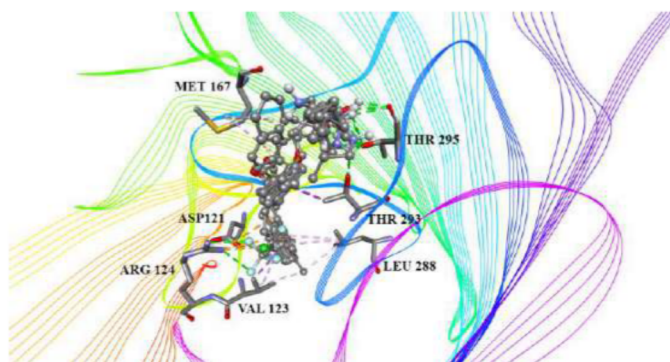


Figure 1. Binding site of porin with marked aminoacids, docked compounds and marked interactions. Green: hydrogen bonds, orange: electrostatic interactions, purple: alkyl-Pi interactions, pink: hydrophobic alkyl-alkyl

Having this series of compounds, Table 1, analogues of **PRO 12**, which differ only in substituent group and its position on aromatic ring, from docking poses analysis we can divide protein-ligand interactions into those that are common and subdivision of those determining the activity of compounds.

Table 1. Structures with measured and calculated activities

compound	Structure	IC ₅₀ mM	lnIC ₅₀	*E
	R			
1. 5OF	2-F	1.27	-13.6	-7.3
2. 5CF ₃	2-CF ₃	2.24	-13.0	-7.1
3. 5PF	4-F	1.27	-13.6	-7.3
4. 5PCH ₃	4-CH ₃	1.28	-13.6	-7.9
5. 5OCH ₃	2-CH ₃	2.56	-12.9	-7.7
6. PRO	H	2.66	-12.8	-7.2
7. 5OCL	2-Cl	1.22	-13.6	-7.3

E-vina binding energy, kcal/mol

Thus, all compounds from series form following stabilizing hydrogen bonds with residues Thr 295 and Thr 293, via protonated nitrogen atom or hydroxyl group. Moreover, there are stabilizing hydrophobic interactions, originating from Sulfur-Pi with Met 167, alkyl-Pi with Val 123 and Leu 288, and cation-Pi with Arg 124. Pi-alkyl interaction is also possible with methyl group of Thr 293. There is also found anion – Pi interaction with Asp 121. Mentioned subdivision consists of Arg124, Leu 288 and Val 123. As one can see from Table 1, compound with lowest activity is **PRO**, which has no substituent groups. The very close activity, somewhat higher has **5OCH₃**, which includes methyl group in *ortho*- position. The explanation for this small difference could be presence of methyl group, which can contribute to stabilization in hydrophobic pocket, close to Val 123 and Leu 288. On the other hand, **5PCH₃** has higher activity, for the methyl group is closer to hydrophobic binding pocket, forming more stabilizing interactions. In compounds pair **5OF- 5PF**, there is no significant difference, for the stabilizing electrostatic interaction – hydrogen bond is formed between fluorine group and Arg 124. The position of Arg 124 is such that difference in substituent position on aromatic ring does not affect the magnitude of interaction. The binding mode of **5OCl** is the same as **5OF** and the such small difference in activity can be neglected. Finally, **5CF₃** has somewhat lower activity than **5OF** and **5OCl**, more similar to **5OCH₃**. Although -CF₃ group form stabilizing electrostatic interactions with Arg 124, its volume gives contribution to repulsive dispersive interactions with hydrophobic pocket, mostly with Val 123 and therefore lower activity is measured.

Binding energies as result from Autodock Vina are correlated with experimental values in manner of difference between *ortho-para-* pairs, ie **5PCH3** 7 is calculated to be more active than **5OCH3**, which does not stand for different substituents with same position on aromatic rings (**5OF-5OCH3 - 5OCI**). However, the **5CF3** is calculated to have lowest activity and **5PCH3** to have the highest. This does not stand for **5OCI** and **5PF**, which are calculated to have same binding energy values, but much lower than **5PCH3**. This differences originate from docking program forcefield and under/overestimation of hydrophilic and hydrophobic interactions.

CONCLUSION

The performed docking studies studies of the propafenone derivatives indicates that their antimicrobial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are realizing by modulating activity of porins.

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